the ship, revision of existing pricing formula for the ships built in Indian Shipyards, restructuring of the capital base of the Shipyard, gradual improvements in norms of productivity and modernisation of the yard.

Loss of mangrove forests in the country's coastline

698. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) what according to the study, if any, made by Government is the estimated an nual loss of mangrove forests in the coun try's coastline because of over exploitation and reclamation in each of the coastal forests and the islands in the country;

(b) what is the total existing mangrove areas in each of the coastal forests as against the areas which existed at the beginning of the seventh plan period;

(c) what is the overall effect on the environment and ecosystem of these areas as a consequence thereof; and

(d) what strategy has been formulated to conserve the riches of the areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHi): (a) No specific study has been made to estimate annual loss of mangrove forests in the country due to over-exploitation and reclamation in each of the coastal forests and islands

(b) State-wise break-up of mangrove areas, according to the 1985—87 satellite imagery data as given in State of Forests Report, 1989, is given in the Statement enclosed. The data on existing mangrove areas through satellite imagery of 1987-89 is not available.

(c) The overall effect of over-exploitation, destruction and degeneration of mangrove areas include destabilisation of shoreline resulting in soil erosion, loss of biological diversity especially endangered species, decrease in aquatic productivity including fish yields etc.

(d) A National Mangrove Committee has been set-up to advise the Government on appropriate policies and action prog rammes for conservation and management of mangroves and to review the progress in implementation etc. The Committee has since identified 15 mangrove areas for conservation and management, out Of which management action plans for 14 areas have been already drawn and financial as sistance to the tune of Rs. 1. 65 crores has been released to the State Governments for this purpose. State-level Steering Com mittees have also been constituted in the concerned State for implementation of the programme. A number of the major mangrove areas are being protected under the system of national parks, and sanctua ries such as in the SunderbanS, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Gulf of Kutch, Point Calimere, Bhitarkanika and Coringa which are receiving financial assistance from the Central Government for their protection and management and it is proposed to extend conservation to more mangrove areas in the future.

Statement

State-wise break-up of mangrove areas (1989)

	Andhra Pradesh.	Area (in sq. *km. j*
1.		405
2.	Gia	3
3.	G'ljarat..	412
4.	Maharashtra. . . .	114
5.	Orissa.	192
6.	Tam'l Nadu. . . .	47
7.	West Bengal. . . .	2109
8.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	973
	TOTAL:	4255